

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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70

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 IO-03 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EA-13 PRS-01 CG-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 429

S E C R E T GENEVA 3586

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UN

REF: GENEVA 3540

1. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF UK DELEGATION DUGEON ADVISED STEVENSON IN PRIVATE MEETING OF FOLLOWING TWO DEVELOPMENTS ON LOS STRAIT ARTICLE.

2. FOLLOWING THURSDAY MEETING GROUP OF FIVE (REFTEL) AT WHICH U.K. STRAIT PROPOSAL DISCUSSED, KOVALEV, DEPUTY HEAD SOVIET DELEGATION, REQUESTED PRIVATE MEETING WITH DUGEON AND ADVISED DUGEON THAT U.K. DRAFT ARTICLES HAD CAUSED MAJOR CONSTERNATION IN MOSCOW WHERE THEY WERE VIEWED AS AN ATTEMPT BY U.K. TO PREVENT SOVIET ACCESS TO THE MEDITERRANEAN AND SOVIETS WERE CONSIDERING BREAKING OFF ALL FURTHER GROUP OF FIVE CONSULTATIONS. DUDGEON SAID HE ASSURED KOVALEV THAT U.K. WOULD NOT TABLE DRAFT ARTICLES WITHOUT FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH SOVIETS AND WOULD IN ANY EVENT BE DISPOSED TO DELETING REFERENCE TO MULTINATIONAL STRAITS AND RETURN TO A FORMULATION CLOSER TO U.S. OR SOVIET DEFINITION OF INTERNATIONAL STRAITS.

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3. DUDGEON ALSO ADVISED KOVALEV THAT U.K. VERY ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE WITH GROUP OF FIVE COOPERATION WHICH THEY

CONSIDER KEY TO NEGOTIATION OF ACCEPTABLE LAW OF SEA
TREATY. KOVALEV LATER ADVISED DUDGEON THAT CRISIS HAD
PASSED AND USSR WILL CONTINUE COOPERATING WITH GROUP
OF FIVE. DUDGEON INDICATED U.K. MAY REVISE STRAITS
PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH GROUP OF FIVE.

4. DUDGEON FURTHER ADVISE STEVENSON THAT EGYPTIAN
REPRESENTATIVE ABDEL-HAMID HAS INDICATED TO U.K. THAT
EGYPT'S STRONG POSITION ON STRAITS IS MOTIVATED BY
APPRECIATION OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO U.S. OF TRANSIT
OF STRAITS AND DELIBERATE DECISION TO PUT PRESSURE ON
U.S. TO INFLUENCE ISRAEL'S POSITION ON WITHDRAWAL FROM
SINAI.BASSIN

SECRET

NNN

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